

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the acquisition of fluorescent images of a plane object, comprising

means for housing the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

a UV radiation source inducing photoluminescence of said object and

a sensor sensitive to fluorescent radiation,

characterized in that it includes a carriage which supports a linear sensor provided with a plurality of aligned photosites,

with at least one UV radiation source for emitting radiation at two wavelengths in order to carry out a chromatographic analysis for detection of directly fluorescent chemical substances and detection by a fluorescence inhibition method,

at least one UV radiation source and means for driving the carriage which supports the linear sensor with respect to a region of the object whose image it is desired to acquire and

control means for controlling illumination with UV radiation and for moving the carriage with respect to the object,

with the acquisition of a succession of image lines corresponding to at least one region of the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Image acquisition apparatus,~~ Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that said apparatus is a flat digitizer with means for holding the object stationary and for moving the carriage.

3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the UV radiation source is a linear source placed parallel to the linear sensor.

4. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a window without a pane and corresponding to an acquisition region scanned by the carriage.

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a window corresponding to an acquisition region of the object, provided with a pane made of a material transparent to fluorescent visible radiation and to radiation inducing photoluminescence.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes multiple UV radiation sources corresponding to several UV radiation wavelengths.

7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for the acquisition of fluorescent images of a plane object, comprising

means for housing the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

a UV radiation source inducing photoluminescence of said object and

a sensor sensitive to fluorescent radiation,

characterized in that it includes a carriage which supports a linear sensor provided with a plurality of aligned photosites,

at least one UV radiation source and means for driving the carriage which supports the linear sensor with respect to a region of the object whose image it is desired to acquire and

control means for controlling illumination with UV radiation and for moving the carriage with respect to the object,

with the acquisition of a succession of image lines corresponding to at least one region of the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

~~Apparatus according to claim 1,~~ characterized in that it includes a cover provided with means for automatically stopping the emission of UV radiation if the cover is not properly closed.

8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a charger ensuring that an image acquisition window is automatically supplied with a rigid chromatography plate.

9. (Currently Amended) System for the processing of fluorescent planar-chromatography images, characterized in that it includes an apparatus comprising

means for housing the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

a UV radiation source inducing photoluminescence of said object and

a sensor sensitive to fluorescent radiation,

characterized in that it includes a carriage which supports a linear sensor provided with a plurality of aligned photosites,

with at least one UV radiation source for emitting radiation at two wavelengths in order to carry out a chromatographic analysis for detection of directly fluorescent chemical substances and detection by a fluorescence inhibition method,

at least one UV radiation source and means for driving the carriage which supports the linear sensor with respect to a region of the object whose image it is desired to acquire and

control means for controlling illumination with UV radiation and for moving the carriage with respect to the object,

with the acquisition of a succession of image lines corresponding to at least one region of the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

combined with a computer provided with image processing software.

10. (New) Apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a cover provided with means for automatically stopping the emission of UV radiation if the cover is not properly closed.

11. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that said apparatus is a flat digitizer with means for holding the object stationary and for moving the carriage.

12. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that the UV radiation source is a linear source placed parallel to the linear sensor.

13. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that it includes a window without a pane and corresponding to an acquisition region scanned by the carriage.

14. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that it includes a window corresponding to an acquisition region of the object, provided with a pane made of a material transparent to fluorescent visible radiation and to radiation inducing photoluminescence.

15. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that it includes multiple UV radiation sources corresponding to several UV radiation wavelengths.

16. (New) Apparatus according to claim 7, characterized in that it includes a charger ensuring that an image acquisition window is automatically supplied with a rigid chromatography plate.

17. (New) System for the processing of fluorescent planar-chromatography images, characterized in that it includes an apparatus comprising

means for housing the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

a UV radiation source inducing photoluminescence of said object and

a sensor sensitive to fluorescent radiation,

characterized in that it includes a carriage which supports a linear sensor provided with a plurality of aligned photosites,

at least one UV radiation source and means for driving the carriage which supports the linear sensor with respect to a region of the object whose image it is desired to acquire and

control means for controlling illumination with UV radiation and for moving the carriage with respect to the object,

with the acquisition of a succession of image lines corresponding to at least one region of the plane object whose image it is desired to acquire,

characterized in that it includes a cover provided with means for automatically stopping the emission of UV radiation if the cover is not properly closed,

combined with a computer provided with image processing software.